

**To:** McCarthy, Gina[McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov]  
**From:** National Wildlife Federation Action Fund  
**Sent:** Wed 8/12/2015 9:02:10 PM  
**Subject:** Enforce Land-Clearing Protections to Save Monarch Habitat

Aug 12, 2015

Administrator of the EPA Regina McCarthy

1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Administrator of the EPA McCarthy,

In order to protect vulnerable populations of monarchs and other wildlife that depend on native grasslands, I ask that your agency enforce the protections against conversion of untilled lands in the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS).

Native grasslands in the U.S. are disappearing at an alarming rate, along with the monarch butterfly and other wildlife species that depend on them.

In your role as Co-Chair of the Pollinator Health Task Force, I am counting on you to help protect this vital habitat. The RFS includes clear protections against converting untilled lands to cropland for the sake of biofuel crop production. To date, however, EPA has not implemented this provision in the way that Congress intended and in a way that protects pollinators and other wildlife. By using an "aggregate compliance" approach instead of truly enforcing these protections, EPA has failed to protect against the conversion of hundreds of thousands of acres native grasslands that are now being used to produce biofuel crops.

Given the threats to remaining native grasslands and the steep declines of grassland-dependent wildlife, it is crucial that you ensure that the land-clearing protections in the RFS be enforced in a way that protects these critically important habitats to the fullest extent of the law.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Citizen Name/Ex. 6**